Safety hazards in tunnels on Konkan Rail route

2195. SHRI SAN JAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any safety hazards have been identified in the tunnels of the Konkan Rail route in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and safeguards provided by Konkan Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Various safety hazards in tunnels are related to ventilation, trank maintenance, boulder fall, darkness, drainage, refuge communication and fire. Indentified tunnels are provided with ballast-less track to take care of track maintenance problems in long tunnels (more than 4 kms.) and selected lengths of the tunnels are provided with concrete lining, shotcreting, rock bolting to support weak areas. All the tunnels are annually inspected and loose scaling is carried out at the required locations. Ventilation has been provided in tunnels longer than 4 kms. to ensure proper quality of air and to exhaust the smoke emitted by the locomotive. It also prevents suffocation if the train stops inside the tunnel. State of art monitoring and control systems are installed. Lighting has been provided in the identified tunnels to assist passengers to evacute if necessary. All trains on Konkan Railways are vestibuled. Side drains have been provided for the passage of the water with cover on the top to act as pathway and refuges have been provided in the tunnels for men and trolley to accomodate themselves when the train is passing. Communication sockets are provided at 400 m in tunnels to ensure communication between the train crew and the control office in case of any emergency. Also, fire extinguisheres are provided inside the long tunnel to put off the fire in case of a mishap.

Rail line between Tumkur and Chitradurga

2196 SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Minister of Railways have received any proposal to lay rail line between Tumkur and Chitradurga in Karnataka State; and